



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on April 13, 2026, in the Boonton High School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order, and the following statement was read: Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Daily Record, the Citizen and the Boonton Town Clerk; and posted on the District website and at the Board of Education Building at 434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ.

ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members present at roll call were Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Justin Nguyen, Brianna O'Halloran, Steve Sentowski. Absent were Patrick Joyce, Matthew Mondino.

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 10 members of the public. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from NJSBA about presentation on BHS academy programs

LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School student representative: 4th marking period, spring sports, spring dance, talent show, drama club production "Sound of Music"
2. Boonton High School student representative: Powder Puff game and pep rally, spring break, 4th marking period, senior internships
3. ESC of Morris County: Received inquiry about hosting a new program for disabled students
4. MCSBA: May 6 meeting at Mendham HS; Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting with Sen. Bucco (task forces on HIB and funding) and follow-up meeting
5. NJSBA: Candidate for VP-Legislation

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration
 - Personnel: Resignation of JHS music teacher Kristen Houser
 - Programming: Visitors for AVID National Day
 - Professional Development: Benefits of new model without the monthly early dismissal
 - Technology & Facilities: Portable radios
2. Operations: Purchase of Chromebooks, LRIG award, student activity payments
3. FY27 Budget Discussion: Follow-up to the 3/23 board meeting when 5.25% increase was approved
 - a. Review of healthcare and state aid, reductions for FY26, proposed reductions for FY27, what is kept in the budget
 - b. Prior question about shifting staff from full-time to part-time: Staff hired before 2021 protects union members from being reduced, but new hires would be part-time
 - c. Grants for facilities, seeking creative revenue sources

- d. Discussion and poll about potential change for final approval on 4/27 from 5.25% to 6.25% that would yield about \$230,000 additional revenue, which would be appropriated into facility projects. Supporting this were Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Nguyen, Mrs. O'Halloran, and Mr. Sentowski, but not Mrs. McMahon.
- e. Public comment: Healthcare market; Renegotiating healthcare mid-contract; Future impact on reduction in section in next year's first grade; Catherine McKenzie about class size; Lauren Wainer about elementary students, how class size is monitored, policy 2312 about class size; Alyssa Hunkin about elementary students, Lincoln Park students; Adam - options to make up a \$1 million deficit?, Educational foundation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Ms. O'Halloran, the Board approved all resolutions in a consent agenda by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. McMahon, Mr. Nguyen, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Sentowski (except Admin PK8). NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Sentowski (Admin PK8). ABSENT: Mr. Joyce, Mr. Mondino.

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: March 23, 2026 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: March 23, 2026 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. One-Day Shadow Experience: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a one-day shadow experience for Nicole Mendell, Long-Term Leave Replacement PreK Teacher at Boonton High School, with Krystal Aug, prior to assignment start date.
2. Revise Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the leave of absence for Jessica Harbeson previously approved on February 9, 2026, from February 23, 2026 through April 2, 2026, utilizing accumulated sick days, be revised to begin March 24, 2026 through May 4, 2026, utilizing accumulated sick days.
3. Leave of Absence Request: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence request from Tracy Col-Spector, School Street School Elementary Teacher, effective May 8, 2026 through June 30, 2026, utilizing 30 days of accumulated sick days.

4. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
SSS/JHS PreK (Story Telling & Field Day)	BHS Preschool
Grades 6-8 (Drama Club)	Pillar Elementary School

5. Detention Monitor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Jeffrey Tavalacci as a detention monitor at John Hill School at a stipend rate of \$26.50 per hour for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Kristen Houser, John Hill School Music Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
7. Bridges to Learning Summer Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the Bridges to Learning Summer Staff and rates of pay, as per the attached. ([attachment](#))
8. Transfer Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a transfer for Isabella Gelb, Paraprofessional, from John Hill School to School Street School effective February 25, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
9. Volunteer Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Erika Faurolo as a Volunteer Softball Coach at John Hill School for the 2025-2026 school year.

PK-12

1. Substitutes: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Nurse
Nicole Mendell	Nicole Beck**
Lisa Fleming*	

*Pending background check

**Pending receipt of certificate

2. One Day Shadow Experience: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a one-day shadow experience for Nicole Beck, Substitute School Nurse, with the school nurses during the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Volunteer Coaches/Advisors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following volunteer coaches and advisors at Boonton High School for the 2025-2026 school year:

Mark Stanic - Volunteer Track and Field Coach
Vincent Coiro - Volunteer Track and Field Coach

Peter Nosal - Volunteer Track and Field Coach
David Huguen - Volunteer Weight Room Advisor
John Sisto - Volunteer Weight Room Advisor

4. Staff for Crowd Control: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kathie Foley and Vincent Coiro for crowd control at events for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grades 9-12 (CBI)	Delizia Pizza Kitchen
Grades 12+ CBI Transition	Boonton Lanes

6. District On-Roll Report: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the District's On-Roll Report for the month of March 2026. (enclosure)
7. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following out-of-district placement beginning March 30, 2026 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, and that transportation be arranged as needed:

Spectrum 360 Upper School
Student State ID# 4501631529-B
Tuition - \$468.49 per day (57 days)
1:1 aide - \$230.00 per day (57 days)

8. Home Instructor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Andrea Villegas to provide home instruction during the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$42 per hour.

HIB REPORT

None

POLICY

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the reading of the following:

Final Reading
Regulation 9130 Public Complaints ([attachment](#))

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$11,918.82	04/13/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$36,142.80	04/13/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$669,245.06	03/30/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$296,589.23	04/13/2026	General checks (attachment)

\$289.48	04/13/2026	Student Activity BHS ACH (attachment)
\$2,544.50	04/13/2026	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$12,732.00	04/13/2026	Student Activity JHS checks (attachment)

2. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$1,127,731.14	3/15/2026
\$ 1,165,237.98	3/30/2026

3. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 04/13/2026 to organizations, provided all required documents are submitted. District teams have priority. No activities on days school is closed. Use of all gyms and fields are coordinated with the Athletic Director. All permits are pending building administration final approval and receipt of documentation. ([attachment](#))
4. Contract: The Board approves awarding a 2025-2026 contract for \$78,840.00 to Vivacity Tech PBC for Chromebooks, per NASPO contract # NASPO-NJ-HP M0483-24-TELE-72087.
5. Contract: The Board approves awarding a 2025-2026 contract for \$95,345.00 to CDW for Chromebooks, per Contract: New Jersey AEPA-026D Chromebook EDU (ESCNJ/AEPA 026-D).

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

- Steve Bossen: Access by parents to student records when the student turns 18

Mrs. Doherty left the meeting at 8:41 pm

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

- Next meeting is April 27, 2026
- School ethics training by James Plosia, Board Attorney: Actual conflict & appearance of conflict; Doctrine of Necessity for negotiations; keep record of the reasons for abstentions and recusals

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 9:16 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Ms. O'Halloran, all present voted to approve the following resolution to enter Executive Session.

Be it resolved, that the following portion of this meeting dealing with the following generally described matters shall not be open to the public: Personnel matters; Current or Potential Litigation; and Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege. Be it further resolved, it is anticipated that the matters to be considered in private may be disclosed to the public at a later date when confidentiality is no longer required. Be it further resolved, that private consideration is deemed required and is permitted because of the following noted exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act: Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy; Related to investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; Related to pending/anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the Public body is or may be a party; and Falls within the attorney-client privilege and confidentiality is required.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

On a motion at 9:38 pm by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 9:39 pm by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. McMahon, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: